(e) whether any working group to study the wastage of foreign exchange and increase in prices of medicines which are allowed duty concessions is proposed to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Rationalisation of Customs Duty on bulk drugs/intermediates and formulations is done from time to time to ensure easy availability of quality drugs and formulations at reasonable prices in the market and encouragement to the indigenous industry. Requests/representations for reduction/increase of import duty are received from manufacturers and/or Industry Associations. These are examined and, if found justified, modifications in the import duties are recommended to the Ministry of Finance.

Decontrol of molasses

1354. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have lifted control of price and and distribution of molasses;

(b) if so, reasons behind the step and how it would benefit sugar industry;

(c) what have been the reaction of major sugarcane producing States; and

(d) how the Government propose to ensure fair implementation of molasses policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Molasses Control Order, 1961 under which the prices and distribution of molasses were regulated has been rescinded on 10th June, 1993, with a view to removing control on prices and movement of molasses. This is to provide a better opportunity for all sectors dependent on molasses to function optimally.

(c) All States including the major sugar producing States are adjusting to the policy of decontrol over prices and movement of molasses.

(d) The objective of removing the control on prices and movement of molasses is to ensure that the commodity is freely available at market prices.

Non-operation of flights from Delhi to Dibrugarh

1355. SHRI BHADRESHWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the industrial establishment in upper Assam has been badly affected because of non-operation of flights to Dibrugarh from Delhi;

(b) whether Government propose to restart operation of flights to Dibrugarh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) It is not possible to reintroduce services between Delhi and Dibrugarh at present because of crew constraints. However convenient connections have been provided to Dibrugarh via Calcutta for passengers desirous of travelling between Delhi and Dibrugarh.

Promotion of tourism in rural areas

1356. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tourism Action Plan launched by Government proposes to draw certain rural areas in its fold to